

## MINUTES

### **Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District** Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting Number: 2 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board)      Date: May 21, 2020

#### **Advisory Board Present:**

Will Wilson – Chairman  
Mark Waller – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman  
Heidi Carter – BOCC Representative  
John Monroe – At Large  
Neil Frank – At Large  
Kenny Browning – Eno River VAD  
David Heeks – At Large

#### **Others Present:**

Eddie Culberson – Soil & Water  
Mike Dupree – Soil & Water  
Cherri Smith – Soil & Water  
Jane Korest – Open Space  
Celeste Burns – Open Space  
Donna Rewalt – Cooperative Extension  
Ashley Troth – Cooperative Extension  
Nancy Herndon-guest

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, May 21, 2020 and called to order at 8:03 am by the Chairman. The meeting was held as a virtual Zoom meeting.*

1. **VAD Update** – Cherri Smith provided an update on the VAD applications that have been received since the last meeting, and those applications are as follows:
  - James Terry Trustee – 117.036 acres on Roxboro, Bahama, and John Jones Roads.
  - Nancy Moore Estate – 28.601 acres on South Lowell and Mason Roads.
  - Cherry Dickerson, Brian Grinstead, and Duane Copeland – 33.623 acres on Roxboro Road.
  - Laurie Rose Marbrey – 19.814 acres on Cheek Road.
  - Robyn Davis – 19.239 acres on Mason Road.
  - John Monroe – 33.607 acres on Amed Road.

Neal Frank motioned to approve the applications, and Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion passed. John Monroe recused himself from voting on his farm and voted to approve the other five applications.

2. **FPAB Budget** – Eddie Culberson provided an update on the budget. At the February 20, 2020 meeting, the FPAB voted to provide \$500 for a Gold Sponsorship to the Friends of the Hub Farm Spring Fundraiser Dinner and \$250 for the Tri-County Pasture Management Field Day. Both events have been rescheduled for the fall of 2020.

The FPAB has \$485.89 remaining in the budget that needs to be spent before the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2020. Funds do not carry over into the next fiscal year.

Donna Rewalt suggested that Cooperative Extension could use the funds to help with the development and maintenance of the NC Farms App they are working on. This App is envisioned as a service to farmers to help them easily locate opportunities such as farmers' markets.

Neil Frank motioned to provide \$400 to help Cooperative Extension pay for the NC Farm App. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. **Easements/Open Space** – Jane Korest provide the following update on farmland easements:
  - Alston Glenn’s easement on approximately 54 acres closed in March 2020.
  - Paul Adcock’s easement on approximately 30 acres closed in May 2020.
  - John Monroe’s easement on approximately 34 acres closed in May 2020.
  - Other funded easements in the works include Scottie McFarland, Len Needham, Bull City Farm, and an additional easement for Douglas Daye.
  - An application was submitted in early April for NRCS funding for an easement on 58 acres of Mike Garrett’s farm on Harris Mill Road.
  
4. **Agriculture Economic Development Update** – Mike Dupree provided an update on the Agriculture Economic Development Grant Committee and the various programs that are in place to help farmers during this pandemic.

The Durham County Agriculture Economic Development grant application was approved for \$50,000. The Grant Committee meets in June 2020 with launching of the program in July 2020.

The following programs are available to farmers during this pandemic:

- Emergency disaster relief funds from the NC Department of Agriculture administered through the Farm Service Agency
  - Economic Injury Disaster Loan
  - Department of Revenue Unemployment Insurance
  - Paycheck Protection Program
5. **Agriculture Survey** – Ashley Troth and Donna Rewalt provided an update on the Agriculture Survey that Cooperative Extension and Durham Soil & Water have been working on. The purpose of this survey is to assist farmers in dealing with losses, help with selling product, and redirecting resources where they are needed such as food banks.
  
  6. **Approval of Board Minutes from February 2020** – Will Wilson requested adding to the Large Farm Committee section that Kenny Browning is the Chair of this committee.

Motion made by Neil Frank to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Mark Waller.  
Motion passed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Election of Officers** - Will Wilson asked for board advice on election of officers in a virtual meeting.  
Kenny Browning motioned to leave the current officers in place until the end of the calendar year 2020, and John Monroe seconded the motion. Motion passed.
  
2. **County Stormwater Fee** – The County Stormwater Fee is on hold for one year to allow for public comment.

**Next Meeting** – June 18, 2020 at 8 a.m. The meeting will be held as a virtual Zoom meeting.

**Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chairman, Will Wilson adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Will Wilson  
Chairman

Cherri Smith  
Soil and Water

6-18-2020  
Date approved